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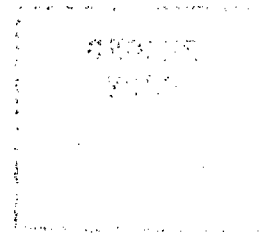
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SELECTED SOVIET MILITARY TRANSLATIONS

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I. TACTICAL OUTLOOK
Krasnaya zvezda, No. 59 (11053), 11 March 1960, pages 1-2
Col. P. Trifonov, Col. G. Ashin

Nuclear, rocket, and other types of mass-destruction weapons; varied combat materiel; and the motorization and mechanization of troops have substantially changed and continue to change the nature of present-day combined-arms combat. Those living today are witnessing the confirmation of F. Engels' famous principle that the introduction of technical improvements has, every time, almost by force brought with it changes and even entire revolutions in the methods of conducting war. This idea is emphasized in comrade N. S. Khrushchev's brilliant speech at the Fourth Session of the Supreme Soviet USSR, in which it is vividly shown how the development of the economy, science, and technology decisively influences the organization of the armed forces, and the forms and methods of conducting combat and operations.

General tactics, the tactics of arms of the service, are receiving their further development in this connection. The tremendous force of nuclear weapons and the existence of means to deliver those weapons to the target immeasurably increase the possibilities not only of strategy and operational art, but also of tactics. Combat acquires a still more decisive nature as compared with the combat operations during the Great Patriotic War.

Present-day combined-arm combat develops on a wide front and in great depth. It is carried out at exceptionally high rates and is distinguished by headlong actions in maneuvering, irregularity of operations, and by rapid and sharp changes in the situation. It is also typified by the acute struggle to seize the initiative and to gain time. It is completely understandable that the organization and conducting of such combat have become a matter that is more critical and more complicated.

Success on the field of modern combat will accompany the commander who possesses varied military-political and technical knowledge, a broad tactical outlook, and high moral-combat qualities.

By tactical outlook we mean a definite aggregate of the necessary knowledge about combat, its theory and practice, and the preparation, conducting, and prospects for the development of combat actions under the conditions of the use of nuclear, thermonuclear, and other means of mass destruction. Tactical outlook is the good knowledge of the moral and combat possibilities not only of one's own troops, but also those of the enemy, and the complete consideration of them when organizing and conducting the combat. Thus, the question of the tactical outlook of a combined-arm commander is inseparable from his over-all qualities, his constant personal, military, and political growth.

A commander's tactical outlook presupposes first of all the necessity of a solid knowledge of the regulations of the Soviet Army which give the theoretical principles concerning the nature of present-day combined-arms combat, as well as the basic conclusions from the experience of the Great Patriotic War and of postwar exercises. This presupposes the creative use of the principles in the regulations depending upon the specific situation that has developed.

Another inseparable part of the tactical outlook is the commander's thorough technical training. Is it possible, in our day and age, to solve the simplest tactical task without technical knowledge? Of course it is impossible. Actually, if the commander has mastered his equipment poorly, is it not impossible for him to use it completely, with the greatest effect? However, there still are officers who underestimate their equipment and show disdain for it. That is why equipment that has been attached or has been assigned for support during exercises is used with an insufficient degree of tactical skill. In this instance the equipment, instead of having a decisive effect upon the combat, becomes a burden. It also happens that the equipment is new, but the methods of using it are old.

It is well known, for example, that lack of knowledge of the destructive properties of atomic weapons and of the defensive means used against them leads to serious consequences. How, when atomic weapons are being used, does a commander protect human life, equipment, and fire means, and simultaneously achieve an increase in defense resistance? What is the most desirable way of conducting an attack and utilizing combat and engineer equipment, and the protective properties of the terrain? These and other questions inevitably confront the commander.

During a certain exercise the attacking forces broke through the "enemy's" defense and forced him to retreat. Motorized rifle subdivisions, changing over to pursuit, encountered a swampy terrain that was difficult to get through, and were somewhat delayed. The "enemy," using the roads that were in existence in the retreat zone, attempted to break away from the pursuing forces so as to have time to occupy an advantageous line of defense. The attacking side, in their turn, attempted to prevent the defending forces from seizing the line and decided to launch a tactical airborne force there. The lack of landing areas on the forested, swampy plain hindered landing that force. What was the commander to do? Major Kulenko, who was in command of the airborne landing force, and navigator-pilot Lieutenant Colonel Starchenko made the decision: they would come down as low as possible on helicopters and land the troops from that position. One can understand that the method that they selected proved to be extremely difficult, but the commander stood by that decision. The landing force was landed in time, and the pursuing subdivisions, in cooperation with it, defeated the "enemy" as he was still approaching the advantageous line.

Equipping the troops with new armament, and the widespread use of reaction-propelled equipment, electronics, and radio make it necessary to direct the special attention of all the commanders to the thorough study of the tactical-technical properties of the new weapons, and their practical use in combat. What the commander needs here, apart from all else, is a knowledge of the fundamentals of physics, chemistry, and mathematics. Hence there has been an increase in the importance of the commanders' general educational training. Actually, the only combined-arms commander who can teach his troops and exercise control over their combat training at the present time is the one who, himself, has a thorough knowledge of the physicomathematical disciplines.

Thus, a commander's tactical outlook is closely linked with technical and physicomathematical knowledge that is based on a high general educational level.

* * *

It is known that combat is the organized armed conflict of combatant sides. Each side strives to develop methods of operations that will guarantee victory over the enemy. That is why an enemy's experience and tactical methods are an important prerequisite for developing the tactics of our troops. Consequently, one cannot imagine an expansion of knowledge about combat without a systematic study of the development of the enemy's views concerning organization, armament, and tactics, and concerning the evaluation of the role, place, and importance of various arms of the service and special troops in combat. V. I. Lenin pointed out that "...an army is acting foolishly or even criminally if it does not try to master all the types of weapons, all the combat means and methods, that the enemy has or may have."

Hence it follows that the constant expansion of knowledge concerning the enemy, his military technology, and his economic and moral possibilities is the absolutely necessary duty of the commander and one of the basic requirements of modern combined-arms combat. This conclusion can also pertain entirely to the commander's tactical outlook. Any action by an officer on the field of combat would be unthinkable without a consideration of the opposing side, its intentions and aims. An excellent knowledge of the enemy has helped our commanders to achieve success in combat and to defeat the enemy by considering his strong and weak points.

It is from this point of view that we must view the tactical exercises held among the troops. If, during these exercises, the fighting sides operate under conditions that approximate the actual combat conditions, if the exercise includes stubbornness, inventiveness, deception, unclear positions, and confused situations, then the commander's tactical outlook will undoubtedly develop. And, conversely, a simplified situation, stereotyped operations, the absence of critical moments, and the seizure of lines and objectives without any resistance, "according to plan," -- all these factors keep the commander from thinking, and prevent the officer from getting an expanded idea of the requirements of modern combat.

* * *

In modern combat the commander must be able, in accordance with the situation, to make a well-substantiated decision, to give assignments to his subordinates, and to organize the combat in the shortest time possible. This obliges him to show a great deal of creativity and to organize his work in such a way that his subordinates will have as much time as possible to prepare for the combat and, by their actions, to forestall the enemy in his intentions.

It must, however, be noted that the making of a decision during tactical exercises still takes a large amount of time. Certain commanders still cannot get rid of their long-standing habit of gathering their subordinate officers together several times, and listening to various, often unnecessary, memoranda, and long-winded reports. Not infrequently it also takes a long time for that decision to reach the troops. And yet all this could be avoided.

Experience shows that rapidity of organizing combat is achieved by reducing the time for comprehending the task, for evaluating the situation, and for making the decision. In necessary instances the decision is made on the basis of the map, without carrying out any reconnaissance of the terrain or the enemy. A combat order is issued orally. Information that is already known to subordinates is not repeated in the order. For purposes of saving time, separate combat instructions are issued instead of an order defining the tasks, say, of combat support. An important role is played by the accelerated communication of the decision to the persons who will execute the order, by means of the simultaneous use of high-speed communications equipment.

In this regard major tasks confront the staff officers. They are obliged to know perfectly modern means of control and communication that increase operational efficiency, and the commanders must show concern for expanding the tactical outlook of the staff officers.

Speed in making decisions is only part of the problem confronting the commanders. The basic problem consists, in general, in the skillful use of the time factor for achieving victory in combat.

The ability to analyze the situation, the ability to determine the most important thing for achieving victory and to mobilize all the forces to solve the primary task in a limited amount of time, must distinguish the commander who possesses a mature mind and a broad tactical outlook.

Many commanders could serve as examples of this.

After breaking through the "enemy's" defense and making a forced march through a canyon, subdivisions under the command of officer V. Lebedev continued to attack. A thaw made the roads almost impassable for vehicular transport. The rate of advance dropped. The troops began to stretch out. Night fell. Soon reconnaissance reported that the "enemy's" reserves had begun to move forward. Eighteen kilometers ahead there was a tactically advantageous ridge of elevations. Possession of that ridge predetermined, to a large extent, the success of the combat in favor of the side that was first to seize it.

Officer Lebedev, evaluating the situation quickly, made the decision to send immediately a reinforced subdivision with the aim of forestalling the "enemy" in his attempt to seize the dominating heights. This decision was carried out with officer Lebedev's typical persistence and firmness. The reinforced subdivision, using the results of their fire charge inflicted on the "enemy's" advancing reserves, mastered the ridge.

* * *

A commander's broad tactical outlook is a direct road to creativity not only in combat, but also in tactical exercises. A varied knowledge of military affairs, and the existence of experience in teaching and educating the troops and of organizing capabilities seem to give wings to the commander, force him to move on, to take another step up. Therefore it is very important during exercises to give the officer more opportunities to show their increasing capabilities. Why, for example, is it not the general practice to put a superior commander "out of commission," so that his place can be taken by an officer standing a step lower? By acting in a new capacity the officer will understand his own functional duties better and will see more clearly the demands that are made of him.

A commander's tactical outlook is not a fixed "value." It must be constantly expanded. The knowledge obtained by officers within military schools and academies must be used in practice and must be increased daily. A person who does not show a constant striving to accumulate knowledge begins to think he knows everything and begins to rest on his laurels, and immediately begins to fall behind.

It also happens that an officer has good, varied, theoretical knowledge and practical experience, but does not possess to a sufficient degree firm will, decisiveness, and initiative in combat. He may make the correct decision, but if he does not show persistence and expediency in its execution, that decision, in the final analysis, will be doomed to failure. That is why senior commanders are obliged to show a serious concern not only for the development of tactical outlook in the officers subordinate to them, and help them in every way to improve personally, but also to harden their will, to develop a firm commander's character.

II. IMPORTANT MEANS OF STRENGTHENING DISCIPLINE

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 77 (11071),
1 April 1960, pages 2-3

M. Zakharov, Marshal
of the Soviet Union

After the historic decisions of the October (1957) Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union], in which special emphasis was made of the role of party-political work in the Armed Forces, the education of the servicemen and women in the spirit of high military discipline took on wide scope in the units and subdivisions of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. And this has already yielded its positive results: the level of discipline has risen.

The nature of the disciplinary practice of officers also underwent major changes. First, it began to be carried out in closer combination with the political education of the servicemen. Second, when imposing a punishment or giving a commendation, commanders began more and more to think: what kind of a psychological effect will this educational measure have upon the subordinate and upon his comrades? is it justified? and what kind of additional work should be carried out in the subdivision for the punishment or commendation to achieve its aim?

Another gratifying circumstance is the fact that a large number of commanders, particularly sergeant personnel, have begun to participate in disciplinary practice. It must also be noted that at the present time extreme measures of punishment are becoming an increasingly rarer phenomenon, whereas the percentage of commendations has risen considerably.

The role of commendations in the system of military education is hard to overestimate. Such remarkable qualities of a serviceman as faithfulness to Communist ideals, honor, truthfulness, and bravery, can best be taught through the use of positive examples. The good, the bright, and the clean have always evoked a feeling of respect and the desire to imitate. A commendation increases a serviceman's faith in his own forces and opportunities, strengthens his will power and persistence in the achievement of new successes. In giving a commendation to a subordinate, a commander thus, in the name of the Motherland, approves that person's action, and emphasizes, before the entire personnel, that person's social importance and benefit. And, as M. Gor'kiy said, when the good is shown fully and clearly, the bad "will appear mean and vulgar."

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, while speaking to officers during his visit at the Group of Forces, said, "Show respect for the soldier. Value his dignity. Know how to see and note the good in him. This will arouse in him forces and energy that you have perhaps not even suspected."

The examples confirming these just words are countless. I shall cite just one, mentioned recently at a Komsomol conference at the X Formation.

Serving in one company was soldier Trofimov. He regularly violated discipline, was negligent in performing his service duties, and was a poor student. The company commander gave him extra details and reprimands, and sent him to the guardhouse. Then the company got another commander -- officer I. Vasil'yev. He began to find out why Trofimov was always violating discipline, he began to study his character and his workaday qualities, and he discovered that the soldier had an inclination to carpentry and also was no slouch with a paintbrush. When preparing the list of personnel to equip the Lenin Room, the commander included Trofimov in it. The soldier became enthusiastic about his favorite kind of work and put his heart and soul in it.

When the work was finished, the commander decided to show recognition of Private Trofimov's labor and endeavor, but the company master sergeant began to talk the officer out of it.

"He's got on everyone's nerves for a year, and now you want to praise him."

But the officer was adamant. He had a company formation and commanded Trofimov to step forward. Trofimov thought that he was going to get another "chewing-out." Then all of a sudden, he was being praised! The praise was so unexpected for him that he went completely to pieces.

The next day the company set out for tactical exercises. After his recent praise, it would have been awkward for Trofimov to lag behind the others, and he worked to the best of his ability. Of course, his results were not brilliant, but his attitude had changed radically, and the commander did not fail to mention this at the critique. The soldier believed still more in his forces, and began to show an increasingly more conscientious attitude to training, and by the end of the year had acquired the rating of "excellent" in combat and political training. That is what can be done if a person's good qualities are seen and remarked on in time!

The disciplinary regulations of the Armed Forces provide for varied forms of incentive awards to servicemen who have distinguished themselves. And it must be noted as a positive factor that our unit and subdivision commanders use them well in the educational system. Whereas two years ago the principal form of commendation that we used was the letter of commendation, at the present time other forms have taken their legal place. Wide use is made, for example, of such a form of commendation as awarding the serviceman a personal photograph taken in front of his unfurled unit banner.

At the X unit, the outstanding servicemen are first photographed in front of their unfurled banner, and then, when the order concerning the award is read in front of the formation in a solemn ceremony, they are immediately given their personal photograph. In addition, one copy is sent to the soldier's home town and another one is put up on the bulletin board entitled "They are Meritoriously Continuing Combat Traditions." Also, agitators in the subdivisions hold discussions about the servicemen who have merited that commendation, and the servicemen are discussed at political information meetings, over the local radio, and their pictures are printed in civilian newspapers.

Recently the high honor of being photographed in front of his unfurled unit banner was won by mechanic-driver Private Tofik Rafiyev, who had recently received a rating of "outstanding" in combat and political training. His father, Hero of the Soviet Union Major Nadzhaf Rafiyev, had served in that unit throughout the war. He had shed much blood in defending the honor and independence of his Motherland. He had performed many exploits and was faithful to his military duty and military oath. More than a year ago the company hero was transferred to the reserves and went to Baku. Several days later he went to the City Military Commissariat and asked them if his son, who was subject to call into the army, could be assigned to the unit in which he himself had served.

"Let the son take his father's place," he said.

The hero's request was honored. After arriving at the unit, Tofik Rafiyev began his training conscientiously, as his father had ordered him to do. His stubborn labor yielded its fruit. The unit commander, in front of the formation, gave him his personal photograph taken in front of the unfurled banner. And one copy was sent to Baku, to his father.

Another form of incentive that merits every kind of approval is the sending of letters of commendation to parents, to enterprises, to kolkhozes, and to Komsomol organizations where advanced servicemen had worked before being called into the army. Skillful use of such letters makes it possible for the officers to exert a beneficial influence upon their subordinates.

Let me quote such an example. One day a letter of commendation was sent to the parents of mechanic-driver Junior Sergeant Tarkhanov. Soon his father sent the unit commander an answer in which he expressed his thanks for the training and education that his son was getting. The letter written by the elder Tarkhanov also mentioned that during the Great Patriotic War he himself had been a mechanic-driver, had been wounded twice, and had had the rank of master sergeant. And then he asked why his son was still a mechanic-driver second class.

The subdivision commander, officer Utkin, called Junior Sergeant Tarkhanov in for a chat and, together with him, read the letter from his father. The son promised the commander that before he was discharged from the army he would get the rating of "Expert Driver," and asked the commander to help him do so. The soldier kept his word, passed his examination for first class driver, and then for "Expert Driver," and that fact was reported by the commander to the soldier's parents.

In our units wide use is also made of such commendation methods as entering the serviceman's name in the Book of Honor, and the granting of short furloughs, which is of especially great importance for a soldier serving in a foreign country. At the same time, it must be said that the giving of commendations as a mighty means of educating individuals is not used skillfully in all our units or at all times. Some commanders,

for example, manifest excessive "lavishness," and give commendations for practically every step taken by a subordinate. What is the value, for example, of the disciplinary practice of a certain company commander who, in the course of one day, issued six letters of commendation to the entire personnel? Such "lavishness" can cause only irony in the soldiers and of course lowers the value of commendations.

It is a bad situation that some of our commanders do not always observe the individual approach when announcing a commendation. Sometimes the commander gives a letter of commendation to a soldier who is in his third year of service because he has made up his cot tightly. What can that evoke except laughter? Unfortunately, we still make little use of such a type of commendation as the withdrawal of a previously imposed fine. Sergeants do not yet participate actively in disciplinary practice everywhere. For example, in the subdivision where Major B. Litsinskiy is the deputy commander for political affairs, letters of commendation were given last month to 80 officers, but not to a single sergeant. Such a situation cannot, of course, be considered a normal one.

In addition to commendations, an important role in the system of military education is played by penalties, if, of course, they are imposed intelligently, in strict conformity with the nature of the act committed and the individual peculiarities of the offender. Imposing a penalty is not a simple matter. As the Minister of Defense USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union R. Ya. Malinovskiy, said, "We must resort less frequently to punishments, especially to arrests. The Party and the state have given our commander large rights. But they must use them intelligently, rather than waving them around like a cudgel."

However, in certain units one must still encounter commanders who have not learned how to make use of disciplinary practice as a mighty tool for educating their subordinates. The regulations, for example, require the commander and the chief to exert his influence on every act of his subordinates. A commander who does not fulfill these duties as outlined by regulation will unwillingly contribute not to the implanting of solid military discipline, but to weakening it. However, this requirement of the regulations to exert influence on every act of one's subordinates does not mean that in all instances it is absolutely necessary to impose a disciplinary punishment on the offenders. The influence may be exerted in various ways.

The commander is given the right to decide by himself what measures will be taken with respect to a person who has violated discipline: whether a punishment should be used, whether to limit the action to a discussion with the offender, or to discuss the soldier's misdemeanor at a general meeting of the personnel or at a meeting of the Komsomol organization. A decisive role is played here by a skillful approach, a thorough, sober evaluation of the misdemeanor, and the correct selection of the method of punishment. The main thing is that the importance of the penalties must not be overestimated, just as they should not be underestimated. In using the methods of punishment, the commander is obliged to be guided by expediency and common sense.

The most serious shortcoming in disciplinary practice is the monotonous use of penalties, and, at that, extreme methods of punishment -- arrests. In some subdivisions arrests still constitute about half the penalties imposed. Some commanders, using the extreme method of punishment for insignificant violations of discipline, completely forget that there exist other methods of punishment such as admonition and reprimand.

There was a case like that at one of our units. A young and relatively inexperienced commander called the subdivision to formation. At that instant one of the soldiers began to have a strong attack of coughing. The commander thought that the coughing was deliberate and, without stopping to think, immediately put the soldier under arrest, in front of the company formation. It might be worthwhile for that immoderately hotheaded commander to heed the wise advice: never punish anyone in the heat of anger; before you punish anyone, cool off, weigh all the considerations, and then make the true decision.

Abuse of extreme measures of punishment reduces the value and efficacy of all other types of penalties, and even the act of arrest is changed from an exceptional phenomenon into an ordinary one, and consequently loses its educational value.

A large shortcoming in disciplinary practice is the fact that some commanders have become "monopolists," so to speak, in the imposing of penalties and thus have actually prevented commanders subordinate to them from using their disciplinary rights. All one has to do is look at the penalty and commendation record cards for the X unit, and one immediately gets the impression that the unit only has one chief -- its commander. He has imposed many penalties and given many commendations. On the other hand, some company commanders and many platoon commanders have, during the same time, taken almost no part in the imposition of penalties upon offending subordinates. One might ask the unit commander: does he analyze the disciplinary practice in the regiment?

The commander must have an especially attentive attitude to the use of disciplinary rights with respect to young soldiers who have recently come into the army. In most instances the young soldier commits misdemeanors not deliberately, but because he has not yet become accustomed to the new living conditions, has not acquired a solid knowledge of the regulations. It is necessary to help the young soldiers to fit into the organization more rapidly, to help them become stronger, physically, morally, and politically. It is necessary to remember that some of them grew up without mothers or fathers, and this has had an effect upon their education.

It seems to us that special motion-picture films should be made showing the life of the soldier from the moment he arrives at the unit, and his entire service in strict conformity with our regulations. These films would help to show vividly, in visual terms, everything required for the soldier's service. They would also help to acquaint our young people who are under draft age with the jobs and obligations of those serving in the army. But, unfortunately, we do not have such films yet.

A tremendous role in the fight to strengthen military discipline is played by the Party instructions concerning the increasing of the role of the public in the fight against criminal actions and violations of laws of society.

Commanders, political agencies, and Komsomol organizations of the Group of Forces have, in recent years, begun more skillfully to form the public opinion of their personnel and to weld together a strong military group that, by the force of its social influence, could help the commander to educate the personnel in the spirit of a conscientious attitude to the fulfillment of their service duty. In our best units there is maintained an atmosphere of intolerance to violators of military discipline, or to improper actions in official areas or in parks. The Komsomol is rising to the struggle for strong military discipline. For almost 70% of all the servicemen in the army at the present time are members of the VLKSM [Komsomol]. This is a tremendous force.

The influence of public opinion is difficult to overestimate. It may be said for sure that penalty does not achieve its aim if the offender is mentally supported by his comrades, if public opinion does not follow after the commander has decisively censured the offender's misdemeanor with all rectitude and adherence to principles. Experience tells us that commanders of our advanced subdivisions, such as officers I. Utkin, A. Kovalev, F. Kuznetsov, and others, have achieved appreciable results in the fight for excellent discipline precisely because, without lowering their own personal demandingness, they are able to direct the force of public opinion against the violators of discipline.

The following incident occurred at one of our units once. Old-timers Gavrilenko and Milent'yev, priding themselves on their "seniority" in serving in the army, crudely offended young soldier Butsko, injuring his dignity. The subdivision commander severely punished the offending soldiers. But they found "sympathizers" who began to whisper it about that the commander did not appreciate those "veterans." Because of some newcomer he punished old-timers who had sweated through many a fatigue suit in the service.

And only then did the subdivision commander understand that punishment by itself is not enough in cases like this. It is necessary to have the entire company understand the meaning of the offense and to have the entire company censure the offenders' actions properly. The next day he called a general meeting of the personnel. After the commander made a brief introductory speech, the soldiers and sergeants themselves began to speak. The tone was set by the Komsomol members. The meeting lasted about three hours. The persons who spoke came down with such force on the offenders that they were ready to fall through the earth from shame.

The meeting forced Gavrilenko and Milent'yev to apologize to the young soldier. The offenders apologized, acknowledged their blame, and gave their word to the general meeting that they would never repeat their

offensive actions for the rest of their service in the army. After the meeting the subdivision commander felt that now his penalty had achieved its goal, since it seemed to express the will of the entire unit.

There are many other desirable forms of exerting public influence: criticism of the offenders in the bulletin-board newspapers or in civilian newspapers, censuring their misdemeanors at Komsomol meetings, etc.

It seems to me that at the present time, during the preparations for the All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations, all of us -- commanders, political workers, political agencies, and Party organizations -- should share our experience in fighting to strengthen conscientious military discipline and firm procedures among the troops, and should disseminate wider and wider everything new, advanced, and valuable that has been achieved in this field. We must mobilize all our personnel, but primarily the Communists and Komsomol members, in the decisive struggle against the smallest manifestations of lack of discipline and a negligent attitude to the fulfillment of military duty.

Our goal is to educate the conscientious, disciplined, manly serviceman, who has mastered his military equipment to perfection and who is ready, at any moment, to enter into combat with the enemy and to defend, at any cost, the state interests of his beloved Motherland. We must do everything to see that all our work in this field will correspond completely to the achievement of that goal, and will strengthen still more the valiant Armed Forces, the faithful guardian of the interests and security of the Soviet Motherland.

III. WHEN CONTROL IS RELAXED

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 71 (11065),
25 March 1960, page 2

Major Yu. Chernov,
candidate in economic
sciences

At first glance it seemed unexpected that during the inspection the chief of financial allowances of the X unit, Senior Lieutenant N. Ilyukhin was found to be misappropriating state funds. Fortunately, everything ended according to the old Russian proverb, "Give a man enough rope and he'll hang himself."

We happened to become acquainted with the inspection documents, to ascertain the reasons for this event that is so rare and depraved under our conditions. The question that arises first is, were there not any signs of Ilyukhin's moral fall and could not that fall have been prevented in time?

It would appear that there were more than enough such signs. A few people noticed that Ilyukhin would make purchases that would seem immoderate for his income, and that he used alcoholic beverages frequently. One would think that the first person to be interested in these signs would be the unit commander who was Ilyukhin's service superior. Unfortunately this was not the case.

Prior to 1958 no internal audit commission was appointed at all. But even after the creation of an audit commission headed by Senior Lieutenant Myalkovskiy, there were few changes. The members of the commission had a negligent attitude to the fulfillment of their duties, and did not carry out the quarterly audits of financial activity. Even here Ilyukhin showed his "inventiveness": he himself prepared the documents attesting to the results of the audits that were alleged to have taken place.

It is not by accident that we have dwelt in detail on this incident. It is instructive in that it perhaps shows to a certain extent the underestimation of control.

We happened to spend some time recently in many units and we were convinced that the overwhelming majority of military personnel have a careful attitude to the protection of material assets, and stand vigilantly on guard over socialist property.

It was gratifying to see good examples of work done by internal audit commissions. In one of the units the audit commission is headed, and not for the first year, by Comrade Shchigrovskiy, an experienced officer. The commission holds regular audits, and reports to the commander promptly concerning any shortcomings that are revealed. It is also important to note something else: the commission does not limit itself to an audit of the documents, but also keeps a close watch to see that the established procedures are observed immediately at the allowance services and subdivisions and at the depots.

Unfortunately, certain commanders and political workers do not yet devote the proper attention to internal control, and carry out inadequate audits of the activity of the subordinate services, erroneously assuming that there is enough control from the superior agencies. In one of the units we met officer Ivanchenko. He seemed to be undoubtedly one of those energetic, trained officers with broad life experience, of whom we have many. And so it was all the more strange to see the attitude of enmity that Ivanchenko showed to all types of control.

Together with the formation representative, Captain K. Akhmetov, we attempted to organize an inspection of that organization, including the participation of the audit commission. But we were given no cooperation at all. Comrade Ivanchenko reacted mildly to the results of the inspection.

People might object to us: but there are no fraudulent violations in our unit, so what is there to be concerned about? Yes, for the time being there are no abuses. But there are violations of cash-office and advance-payment discipline, and of the established procedure for the protection of assets, which could be eliminated if there were proper organization of internal control.

It cannot be considered normal for certain political workers and secretaries of Party offices to hold themselves aloof from the organization of internal control. Sometimes Party offices are informed of instances of misappropriations or various kinds of shortages, but they do not take any decisive measures. But could we not, for example, on the basis of documents of an internal audit commission, hear a report at a Party office session by a particular chief of a service, and perhaps render him assistance in eliminating any shortcomings that have been revealed?

Public opinion could also help the commanders more in the manning of internal audit commissions. Frequently the commissions include persons who have little competency in the field of military management.

While daily educating each serviceman in a feeling of high responsibility for the protection of property, it is also necessary at the same time to improve control over the activity of the materially responsible persons.

IV. FOR THE SOLDIERS' MESS

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 65 (11059),
18 March 1960, page 2

F. Saushin, Major General
of the Quartermaster
Service

"Cabbage soup and porridge are our food," says the Russian proverb. This was applicable most of all to the food provided to the soldiers in the Tsarist army. Actually, the basis of the soldier's ration at that time was bread, cabbage soup, and porridge. It was not accidental that in those days a cook was called a "porridge-maker."

During the years of the Soviet authority the food provided to the soldiers and sailors has improved steadily as the nation's standard of living has risen. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government have always shown a fatherly concern for the food provided to servicemen. Even during the most difficult months of the Great Patriotic War, when the population was receiving a meager allowance on the basis of ration cards, everything possible was done to assure that the troops would have a steady supply of food.

The successes achieved by our agriculture and food industry during recent years have made it possible to improve considerably the food rations of many categories of service personnel. In particular, white bread has been introduced into the norms for the daily soldier's ration. At the present time a new improvement in the soldier's ration has been carried out: the norms for edible fats and sugar have been increased. The cereals issued for the soldier's ration now include rice, a cereal possessing high nutritive value. Some of the cereal allotment has also been replaced by macaroni products.

The new daily food norms for soldier's rations permit making the food provided to the soldiers higher in calorie content, tastier, and more varied. At the present time the quality of food supply depends primarily upon food preparation and the culinary training of the cooks.

It must be noted that in recent years military kitchens have been teaching new culinary methods for processing products and preparing food. Such methods of food preparation as the smoking of fish on locally manufactured smoking racks, the steaming of fish in pressure cookers, the baking of cakes using soy flour, and other methods have become rather widespread. In many units the soldiers' menu includes, two or three times a week, a cold appetizer in the form of vegetable salad, canned vegetables, or herring.

Much to improve the food supply is provided by kitchen farms, the produce of which goes into the soldier's kettle at rates higher than the established supply norms. This kind of increase in the ration is especially important when the servicemen are engaged in intense combat training.

It is most desirable and most profitable to feed food waste products to hogs. As shown by experience, the food waste products left from feeding 100 persons is completely adequate to feed four hogs. That means that during the course of one year each soldier can receive an additional ration of approximately 4 kilograms of pork from the kitchen farm.

A no less important factor is the construction, at the kitchen farm, of hothouses and hotbeds for growing salad greens and early vegetables. Kitchen farms produce a large amount of fennel, parsley, celery, scallions, carrots, radishes, and other vegetables. Their use considerably improves the taste of the dishes and also increases the vitamin content of the food.

The initiative and ingenuity of the commanders and the farm managers sometimes make it possible to obtain other products from the kitchen farm. Let us give a few examples. There is a reservoir on the territory of the X unit. On the initiative of officer Sbitnev the pond was used for raising carp. A fruit orchard was planted in another unit and now provides fruit for the soldiers' table.

In a number of units the funds obtained from the partial sale of produce grown on kitchen farms are used to purchase dried and fresh fruits for compotes.

The importance of kitchen farms for improving the nutrition of the servicemen can be judged from the following information. As reported by officer Larionov, the following amounts of food were issued last year per soldier in the X unit: meat, 8.3 kilograms; potatoes, vegetables, and salad greens, 18 kilograms; and other products, 50 rubles.

We have already mentioned that the quality of nutrition depends decisively upon the preparation of the dishes. But the preparation of the food itself is determined not only by the skill and efforts of the cooks, but also by the equipment in the kitchens. It is no secret that the areas provided for many mess halls, their planning, and equipment do not conform to present-day requirements.

At the present time a large amount of work is being carried out to remodel military mess halls. Their construction will be carried out on the basis of standard plans. The buildings will contain spacious and well-lighted dining halls, and the kitchen areas will be more correctly planned, in accordance with the assembly-line principle of food preparation.

Not only the mess halls that are under construction, but also the old ones, are being equipped with steam-cooking kettles, modern technological equipment, and the necessary technical-sanitation devices.

In recent years military mess halls have received a large amount of varied mechanical, heating, and refrigeration equipment. This equipment includes washing and cleaning machines and multipurpose units for vegetable-cutting areas, potato-peelers, mechanical fish-cleaners and machinery for making ground-meat patties, etc. Unfortunately, these highly-productive pieces of machinery are sometimes operated inefficiently and therefore often go out of commission. Electrician-fitters who have been added to the mess-hall table of organization have been called upon to play an important role in improving the operation of the mechanical equipment.

Much remains to be done to effect the correct organization of storage and transportation of food products, especially perishable ones. The construction of warehouse and refrigerator areas and the providing of the troops with dismountable refrigerator rooms, refrigerator trucks, trucks from transporting bread, and other means of storage and transporting products must always be in the field of view of the army and fleet farm managers. During the winter it is necessary to pay more attention to the construction of ice warehouses of the system designed by engineer Krylov, which have demonstrated themselves well in operation.

Unit commanders and military farm managers are showing much personal initiative in re-equipping mess halls and in improving their sanitary condition. An important role is also played by the military-nutrition inspections, and fleet district and garrison conferences on nutrition that are carried out with the broad participation of political agencies and the service press. These inspections and conferences serve as a good means for exchanging experience and for disseminating advanced work methods.

It is generally known that an abundant ration and good equipment in mess halls create only the necessary conditions for organizing satisfying, tasty nutrition. But the quality of the preparation of the dishes depends upon the skill of the cooks. This circumstance obliges commanders and managers to devote special attention to the training of the cook personnel. In addition to the training of cooks in training institutions, it is necessary to continue their instruction in classes and at training assemblies. Much benefit is derived from the dissemination of the experience of the best cooks.

I should like to say a few words about improving the nutrition of the servicemen under field conditions. In recent years new types of canned and concentrated food products have been developed. They include quick-cooking vegetable mixtures and cereals, various types of canned meat and fish, canned meat or meat-vegetable products, briquette-type crackers, bread that can be kept a long time without spoilage, etc. Specially prepared canned and concentrated food products make it possible to supply the military units and subdivisions with complete daily rations. Wide use of these rations in the field nutrition of the troops makes it possible to facilitate and accelerate the process of food preparation. Now it is possible, under any field conditions, to supply the men with hot food. All that is required is the knowledge to organize the work.

The quality of food provided to our servicemen in the army and navy is improving from year to year. But the demands made by ordinary Soviet citizens are also increasing from year to year. This obliges all of us -- commanders, political workers, and farm managers -- to show constant concern for the further improvement of the soldier's nutrition.

V. GUARDING SOLDIERS' HEALTH

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 84 (11078),
9 April 1960, page 1

Unsigned article

Our beloved Party has no task more noble or more elevated than the concern for the Soviet man, the complete satisfying of his material and spiritual needs. As a result of the steady rise in the nation's standard of living, the creating of a widespread network of hospitals and clinics, the providing of the population with free, skilled medical aid, the successful development of medical science, and the widespread development of physical culture, there has been achieved a noticeable improvement in the health of the population of the Soviet Union. Suffice it to say that during the years of the Soviet authority the average life expectancy of our citizens has more than doubled, and is now 68 years.

Soviet servicemen, like the rest of the Soviet citizens, met with profound gratitude the decree of the Central Committee CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] and the Council of Ministers USSR concerning ways to further improve the medical service and public-health measures for the population of the USSR. Being an act that was deeply humane, this decree opens up remarkable new prospects for the development of Soviet public health, as well as improving the medical service provided to Soviet servicemen. Military medics are walking in step with all the other medical workers in the country and, by their noble labor, are contributing to the protection of the health of the army and navy personnel. They have made the basis of the organization of medical service for the servicemen day-by-day preventive treatment, which is called upon to prevent a person from becoming ill, and to keep him in fighting commission.

The undertaking of the Rostov-on-Don medical scientists in rendering skilled aid to the population on socialist principles has also been taken up by the workers in military medical institutions. For example, at the Military Medical Academy imeni S. M. Kirov, a large number of scientists entered this patriotic movement. The workers in the medical service of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and the Carpathian, Moscow, and other military districts have actively undertaken the reorganization of their work in the light of the decree of the Central Committee CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR. Krasnaya zvezda has already published a communication from the medical workers in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, in which they warmly hail the decree of the Central Committee CPSU and the Council of Ministers USSR and take upon themselves specific pledges to improve the medical service provided to the soldiers and sailors.

All these things attest to the fact that military physicians have correctly understood the tasks posed by the decree of the central Committee CPSU and the Council of Ministers to the country's medical workers. There is no doubt that the noble undertaking of the physicians of Rostov-on-Don will be supported by all the military physicians. They

must show a still more attentive attitude to their patients, must constantly improve their knowledge, and make wide use, in the process of therapy, of the remarkable achievements of Soviet medical science.

Favorable conditions have been created among the troops for improving the medical service provided to the personnel. An especially large amount has been done to increase and deepen the physicians' special knowledge. An order of the Ministry of Defense USSR has instituted an annual period of therapeutic practice for military physicians in hospitals. In addition, at the present time they are regularly on duty at medical battalions and hospitals.

All these factors have determined that general increase in the quality of the therapeutic process in military medical institutions that has been achieved in recent years. The reduction in the rate of a number of diseases has been closely linked with the improvement in the servicemen's everyday conditions. Therefore the struggle for the servicemen's health must continue to be carried out by the united efforts of the commanders, political agencies, and medical workers.

Nevertheless the commanders, political agencies, and officer managers do not always devote the proper attention to this question. Here and there, for example, there are just complaints about the poor preparation of food in regimental mess halls. Unfortunately, the commanders and political workers of certain units do not take active measures to improve the work of the mess halls.

In the light of the Party and Government decree it is also necessary to solve problems linked with the more efficient distribution of military therapeutic institutions, especially military medical posts, and their provision with up-to-date medical apparatus. It is difficult to expect normal operations from military physicians if the medical post, for example, is all within the same room, if there is no separate isolation room or bandaging room. But one still encounters such unsatisfactory medical posts here and there among the units. For example, comrades V. Dyatletko and N. Kaladze are coping with a situation in which the medical posts in the subdivisions for which they are responsible are poorly housed and equipped, and do not have at their disposal the most elementary conditions for accepting and treating patients.

One would think that difficulties of an objective nature might occasionally be encountered when housing medical institutions. But they can be overcome if one shows the proper concern for the health of the servicemen. An officer who could serve as an example is P. Fedorov, who devotes much attention to the medical service provided to servicemen. He has set aside the best areas for the medical posts and helped them to get equipped properly. It is no accident that the medical service is working well here and that there has been a sharp drop in the disease rate among the servicemen.

Major tasks confront the army and navy medical service in studying the hygienic conditions of the work done by servicemen. A thorough study of the physiology of military labor, as a result of the introduction of

new powerful technical means as armament, the search for advanced methods for diagnosing and treating the diseases encountered most often among the servicemen -- all these must take a leading place in the scientific research work of military medical institutions.

The agenda also contains the question of the reduction and elimination of a number of infectious diseases. The reduction of infectious diseases is unconditionally a task that can be fulfilled, and it can be solved by the medical workers and officers of the rear-area services with the active aid of commanders and the entire army and navy public. The struggle to improve sanitary conditions on the military post, in the barracks, on the test range, and on the ship can and must include the Party and Komsomol organizations, clubs, women's soviets, and the cooperation commissions assigned to the apartment house managers' offices.

Military medical workers must persistently continue to search for the best ways to diagnose and treat infectious diseases, and stubbornly strive to improve the quality of antiepidemic measures carried out in the units and on ships. By means of widespread sanitation propaganda and the skillful carrying out of measures aimed at the hardening and physical education of military personnel, it is necessary to achieve the maximum decrease in the rate of grippe, angina, and acute catarrhs of the respiratory tracts.

The decree of the Central Committee CPSU and the Council of Ministers provides for a number of measures to prevent the contamination of bodies of water, the soil, and the atmospheric air; to improve the water supply, sewerage, and the cleaning of populated places; and to provide for sanitary conditions at public eating institutions. All these questions have a direct relation to the protection of the health of military personnel.

Concern for the health of military personnel is one of the important duties of commanders, political workers, and directors of rear-area services. There is no doubt that, fulfilling the decree of the Party and Government, the chiefs and commanders at all echelons, together with the physicians, will do everything to solve successfully the noble and responsible tasks of improving the protection of the health of the personnel in the Soviet Armed Forces.

VI. PARTY COMMISSIONS

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 68 (11062), Unsigned article
22 March 1960, page 1

The Party conferences that were held recently thoroughly analyzed the activity of the army and navy Party commissions. In the reports and speeches of the delegates it was noted that during the report period the Party commissions have carried out a large amount of fruitful work, which has greatly contributed to increasing the Party ranks, improving the quality of army and navy Party organizations, strengthening Party discipline, and increasing the advanced role of the Communists in combat and political training.

Much that was good, for example, was said by delegates to the conference concerning the Party commission of which comrade Boytsov is the secretary. Like many other Party commissions, this commission worked actively, in a combat manner, and considerably strengthened its links with Party organizations. Its members began to have more contacts with Communists. Before discussing the question of acceptance into the CPSU or the personal file of a particular comrade, they thoroughly study his activity locally, in the subdivision. This enables them to make the correct decision and to use the very process of the critique of the case for educational purposes. The Party commission regularly analyzes its work and communicates its results to the Party organizations.

At the same time, as shown by the Party conferences, there still are a number of shortcomings in the work of certain Party commissions. They have failed to eliminate elements of bureaucratism and formalism, which manifest themselves, for example, in the fact that decisions of the Party organizations are not studied attentively, are not analyzed, but are simply approved, or "rubber-stamped."

One of the most important functions of Party commissions, as is known, is the acceptance of persons as members or candidates for membership in the CPSU. Guided by decisions of the XX and XXI Party Congresses, and the Charter of the CPSU, the Party commissions have done no small amount of work to select into the Party worthy people from among the advanced servicemen and experts in military affairs. This has made it possible to achieve an organizational strengthening of the Party organizations, and to create Party groups in a large number of companies, batteries, and subdivisions equivalent to them. But at the same time, serious blunders are being made in the fulfillment of this large and responsible task.

For example, recently the Party commission of the X formation, without sufficient checking, accepted as a candidate for membership in the CPSU comrade Chabanyuk, as an exemplary serviceman. Later it turned out that Chabanyuk was a morally unstable person. He had grossly violated discipline and continued to violate it after his acceptance into the Party. The Party commission was forced to take his name off the list of candidates for membership in the CPSU. Unfortunately, such cases are not few.

The task consists in eliminating more rapidly the shortcomings noted by the Party conferences in the work of accepting individuals into the Party. The Party commissions are obliged to study the people attentively, to analyze carefully each statement concerning acceptance into the CPSU, remembering the instructions of the Central Committee that it is necessary to improve the composition of the Party regularly, to accept into the Party ranks only checked, sufficiently trained persons, and to steadily raise the level of the consciousness of the Communists.

Our Party requires of Communists the strictest observance of Party and state discipline. Whatever the past merits of a member or a candidate for membership in the CPSU may be, however high his military rank or the post that he occupies, he must be given no advantageous treatment if, by his conduct, he reflects poorly on the honor and dignity of a Communist. An irreconcilable attitude to violations of Party discipline, and a Bolshevik adherence to principles when discussing the misdemeanors of Communists are the basic condition that enables the Party commissions to solve successfully and correctly the tasks confronting them.

The Party commissions are doing no small amount in educating Communists in the spirit of observing Party discipline, and attentively stand on guard for Party morality and ethics. However, as the Party conferences showed, certain Party commissions do not always have a well-thought-out approach to the analysis of personal files, and forget that the discussion of a Communist's misdemeanor at a Party-commission session is a fine school for educating people. Instances are known, for example, when minor misdemeanors have been punished by the extreme method of punishment -- exclusion from the Party. For example, the Party commission at the Political Administration of the Far Eastern Military District, in eight cases during the report period, reversed, on the basis of appeals, the decisions of Party commissions in the formations concerning exclusion from the Party, as being insufficiently justified.

The concern for the strengthening of Party discipline is not exhausted by merely imposing punishments on the offending members or candidates for membership in the Party. The tasks of the Party commissions in this regard are much broader. They must thoroughly study the reasons for the violation of discipline by the individual Communists. By informing the chief of the political agency concerning their conclusions, and by directing the attention of the Party-office secretaries to them, the Party commissions help to eliminate shortcomings that are noted in the work with the members and candidates for membership in the Party. But all Party commissions do not act this way. The delegates to the Party conference from the X unit sharply criticized, for example, the members of the Party commission and its secretary, comrade Arkhipenko, because they do not talk at the Party organizations about the cases discussed by the Party commission, and its decisions are not always reported to the Communists. It is known that Party commissions overrule or change no small number of decisions made by primary Party organizations. However, it has not yet become the rule everywhere for the secretary or

member of the Party commission to go to the Party organization and explain to the Communists the reasons why the decision was overruled or changed. And yet this would have tremendous educational importance, and would contribute to preventing a repetition of the errors made by the individual Party organizations.

A Party commission is an agency of collective management. Therefore the success of its operation depends on the participation that all the members of the Party commission take in the work, the care with which the sessions of the commission are prepared, etc. In practice, however, it often happens that certain members of the Party commission reduce all their activity to merely being present at the sessions, but do not participate in preparing the questions, in studying the materials concerning acceptance into the Party or concerning the investigation of the personal files, in informing the Party organizations of the decisions passed by the Party commission, or in working with the Communists on whom a punishment has been imposed.

After listening to and discussing the report speeches on the Party commissions, the delegates to the Party conferences expressed no small number of critical remarks and suggestions aimed at increasing their activity and combat qualities. Well-trained, authoritative comrades who are capable of completely overcoming the existing shortcomings and implementing the decisions of the Party conferences were elected to the Party commissions.

The work of the Party commissions is a very important component of the over-all Party work, and the guidance of the commissions must be the subject of special concern on the part of the political agencies. Unfortunately, they still are often superficial and lacking in system. It is necessary to take all steps to improve the guidance of the Party commissions on the part of the political agencies, to train the secretaries of the Party commissions, and to publicize and introduce the work experience of the best of them. It is only under these conditions that the Party commissions are able successfully to cope with the important role that they have been called upon to play in regulating the growth of the Party, and in educating Communists in the spirit of iron Party discipline and undeviating observance of the requirements of the Charter of the CPSU.

VII. AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN ARMY AND NAVY LIFE

Krasnaya zvezda, No. 51 (11045), Unsigned article
2 March 1960, page 1

In conformity with the decision of the Central Committee CPSU, an All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations will be held in Moscow in May 1960. In addition to the secretaries of the primary Party organizations, the delegates invited to it will include representatives of various categories of the command and political staff of districts, groups of forces, fleets, as well as units and formations.

The decision to convene the conference is new evidence of the concern shown by the Communist Party for the reinforcement of the might of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the many-sided increase in Party-political work in the army and navy. Questions to be discussed at the conference will include ones of great concern to the army and fleet commanders, and all servicemen -- questions concerning the tasks of the further construction and increasing of the combat readiness of the Armed Forces, and the status and future tasks of Party work in the Armed Forces. The participants in the conference will completely discuss the status of Party work in the army and navy; exchange their experience in the struggle to implement the decisions of the XXI Party Congress, the October Plenary Session of the Central Committee CPSU, the requirements of the Instructions to Organizations of the CPSU in the Soviet Army and Navy, and the Statute concerning Political Agencies; and will determine ways for further increasing Party-political work in the light of the new tasks evolving from the decisions of the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

More than two years separate us from the October Plenary Session of the Central Committee CPSU, the plenary session that laid the foundation for the new phase in the construction and improvement of the Armed Forces. Much has been done during that period. And the first, and very important, result is the further increasing of the role of the Party in guiding the army and navy. In the whole-hearted guidance of the Communist Party and its Central Committee lies the chief source of the might, the invincibility, and the undeviating strengthening of the combat potential of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The time that has passed since the October Plenary Session of the Central Committee is characterized by a major intensification in Party-political work among the troops and an increase in its influence upon all aspects of the life and activity of the units and ships. There has been an increase in the role of the military soviets; the work of the political agencies has become more concrete, better-directed, and more effective; the activity and combat qualities of the Party organizations have increased considerably, and their links with the masses have become closer. One-man responsibility has been reinforced, and the authority of the commanders has increased.

The Party organizations have begun to penetrate more deeply into questions concerning the education and training of the personnel, to fight more relentlessly against shortcomings in combat training, and to help the commanders more concretely to eliminate those shortcomings. They have increased their demandingness upon the Communists in the fulfillment of their service duties, and have begun to strive more persistently to see that each of them actually serves as an example in training and in discipline. Much has also been done and is being done by the Party organizations to effect a broad development of socialist competition among the troops, to increase the creative activity of the servicemen, and to introduce into practice the valuable new means and methods of instructing and educating the personnel. Commanders have begun more skillfully to rely on the Party organizations and to direct their activities, and the businesslike, creative collaboration between commanders and political workers has become stronger.

One of the most important prerequisites for increasing the role of the Party organizations in instructing and educating the personnel was the increase in intra-Party work. Party organizations have begun to observe the Leninist norms for Party life more strictly. The education of the Communists has improved. A brilliant indication of the activation of Party work among the troops is the further growth in the Party ranks. In 1959 alone the number of service personnel accepted into the Party was 33% greater than in 1958. At the present time considerably more than half our subdivisions have Party groups.

In the course of the preparation for the All-Army Conference it is necessary to analyze thoroughly the over-all Party-political work, to completely publicize the profitable experience, to reveal the causes of shortcomings and blunders, to strive persistently to eliminate them, and to devote all attention to thinking up practical proposals for the further improvement of the work methods of the Party organizations. It is especially important to analyze the valuable new advanced achievements that have appeared in the practice of Party-political work during recent times, so as to extend the desirable experience broadly among the troops. It is the duty of the political agencies to use the preparation for the forthcoming All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Party Organizations to improve the forms of Party work, to increase its efficacy. It is necessary to increase steadily the educational work with the servicemen, and to develop on a still broader scale the socialist competition among the personnel.

As is known, the Party agencies in the army and navy recently completed their reports and elections. At the meetings and conferences, in addition to showing the desirable experience, thorough mention was made of the shortcomings in Party-political work, as well as the acute question concerning the intensification of the organizational work of the political agencies, the Party offices, and all the Party activists among the masses of the service personnel. Actually, how, other than by the weakness of organizational work, can one explain the fact that, in addition to advanced units, ships, and subdivisions we also have lagging ones?

The intensification of organizational work among the masses of the service personnel is the first-priority task of the political agencies and Party organizations.

It is necessary for the political administrations of the districts, groups of forces, fleets, and political departments of formations to concentrate their attention, in the process of preparation for the All-Army Conference, on the implementation of the decisions adopted and proposals expressed by the Communists at the meetings and conferences organized to hear reports and elect new officers, as well as at district and fleet conferences of secretaries of Party organizations, on the improvement of the guidance of the primary Party organizations, the Party organizations of battalions, headquarters, and administrations, and the party groups of the subdivisions. It is necessary to render practical assistance to the secretaries of the Party organizations in publicizing the desirable experience of the work to fulfill the decisions of the October Plenary Session of the Central Committee CPSU, and to think up and discuss proposals aimed at further increasing Party-political work and the combat readiness of the army and navy.

A very important sector in the activity of the political agencies and Party organizations is ideological work. Its tasks have been defined with exhaustive completeness in the decree of the Central Committee CPSU concerning Party propaganda under present-day conditions. This document contains the concrete reflection and the further development of the instructions of the XX and XXI Party Congresses, and the plenary sessions of the Central Committee CPSU concerning problems of ideological educational work in the country. The Party organizations of the army and navy must fight actively for the practical implementation of that decree, must improve the guidance of all sectors of ideological work, and must completely eliminate the gap separating the ideological-political education of the Communists and the rest of the personnel from life and from the tasks to be solved by the units and ships.

The All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations is an important event in the life of the army and navy. It is necessary to prepare thoroughly for it. It is important that all the work done among the troops in connection with the forthcoming All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations be directed at further increasing the combat qualities of the Party organizations and the creative activity of the Communists and the rest of the personnel. Personnel in the army and navy must mark the forthcoming All-Army Conference by new successes in combat and political training, in the strengthening of discipline, and in the increasing of the troops' vigilance and combat readiness.

VIII. DISTANT NEW PLACES CALL

Sovetskaya aviatsiya, No. 92
(3569), 17 April 1960, page 2

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Soviet youth, true to the ideals and precepts of the great Lenin, and headed by its vanguard, the Komsomol, has always responded and continues to respond warmly to the summonses of the Communist Party. Members of the Leninist Komsomol consider it their patriotic duty to be where life is more difficult, where their ardent hearts and strong young hands can do the most good. The unselfish labor of the new builders of Communism is valued highly by the Party and the nation. At the XXI Congress of the CPSU, comrade N. S. Khrushchev said that our youth has shown itself well in the mastery of the virgin lands, in raising the level of agriculture, and in the development of industry; by their glorious deeds the Komsomol has earned the respect and love of the entire Soviet nation.

Together with the rest of the Soviet people, our young people are fighting persistently to carry out the glorious tasks of the Seven-Year Plan. In the first year of the Seven-Year Plan, our country has built more than a thousand major enterprises, in the construction of which our youth has taken the most active part. In Siberia and the Far East, in the severe land beyond the Arctic Circle, and on the deserts of Central Asia -- on all the decisive sectors of Communist construction, our young men and women are showing themselves to be models of heroic labor. They have completed operations ahead of schedule at 11 new Komsomol construction projects.

Our nation, and consequently our young people, have tremendous tasks ahead.

Daring and intrepid, and fearful of no difficulties, Soviet young men and women are directing their efforts to carry out the gigantic plans for new construction, especially in relatively virgin areas. At the present time the Leninist Komsomol is sponsoring the construction of a hundred extra large-scale enterprises in the metallurgical, chemical, mining-and-refining, petroleum, power, and gas industries, and in railroad transport. The Communist Party has supported the initiative of the Komsomol concerning the sending of hundreds of thousands of young men and women to new construction projects and the virgin lands.

In the ranks of the young builders of Communism, a worthy place is occupied by former Soviet servicemen and women, including persons who had been agitators in the service. They are working enthusiastically at the new construction projects, in industry, and in agriculture. Reserve service personnel are participating in the construction of the West Siberian Metallurgical Combine and the Sokolovsko-Sarbaykiy Mining and

Enriching Combine, the Bratsk Hydroelectric Power Station, the Abakan-Tayshet railroad line, and many other projects. They also serve as examples of labor prowess on kolkhozes and sovkhoses, and on the virgin lands.

Former military agitators in the Moscow Military District, sergeants Petr Kislits and Ivan Glatunets, and Private First Class Ivan Korolev arrived last autumn at the construction site of the West Siberian Metallurgical Combine. Having previously won the rating of "excellent" in combat and political training, they began to fulfill their labor assignments in an exemplary fashion from their very first day. During a short period of time they mastered their trade of construction-installation workers, and engaged in the struggle to receive the rank of Communist labor shockworker. Komsomol member and former serviceman Viktor Zaytsev works in the same place. He has mastered several trades and now heads a brigade of installation workers. The brigade keeps overfulfilling its production assignments from month to month, and has taken first place in the socialist competition.

There are many more examples of unselfish work done by former military agitators on the advance lines of the Seven-Year Plan.

The service personnel who have been transferred to the reserve are surrounded by the attention and care of the workers, the Party, soviet, and economic agencies, and they are rendered assistance in being assigned to the proper type of work, and in the mastery of their trades. Former aviators Nikolay Bezborodov, Boris Berlogin, and Yevgeniy Stolbetskiy are mastering new equipment in the Kamenskoye School for the Mechanization of the Agriculture of Altay Kray.

Former servicemen who are now agricultural workers in Altay Kray write to the servicemen who are due to be transferred to the reserve:

"Just a few months ago we were taking part with you in combat and political training, and now thousands of us are at schools for the mechanization of agriculture and are persistently training for labor activity. We send you the warm summons: follow our example. After being transferred to the reserve, change your permanent place of residence and come join us in Altay Kray. Or go somewhere else, but go where you are most wanted, where you are most needed."

Where they are most needed! Young army men and women transferred to the reserves in conformity with the law adopted by the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, "The New Considerable Reduction in the Armed Forces of the USSR," after arriving at the creative-labor sectors, will make a great contribution to solving tasks of importance to the national economy. While serving in the army ranks, this segment of army youth, together with the rest of the service personnel, persistently strengthened their combat potential and combat readiness. Their comrades who remained in the Armed Forces will continue, in the future, to fulfill their sacred duty honorably. And the young people transferred to the reserve, after undergoing army hardening, will dedicate their inspired labor to the further flourishing of the socialist economy, to

a new rise in industry and agriculture. There is no doubt that, after joining the well-knit collectives of workers in the North, the Urals, Siberia, the Far East, Kazakhstan, and other areas of our boundless Motherland, they will give all their efforts to the construction of industrial enterprises, electric power stations, and railroads. They are also awaited in the coal, metallurgical, petroleum, and chemical industries, and at lumber camps and in transport. They are called there to those combat sectors by the Party, the people, the Motherland.

Many of the persons subject to being released to the reserves have already determined where they will go for their labor activity. For example, many servicemen transferred to the reserves from the Belorussian, Far Eastern, and Kiev military districts will go to the regions of virgin and neglected lands. A large number of the people transferred to the reserves have expressed the desire to change their permanent place of residence to Krasnoyarsk Kray, Amurskaya Oblast, and to Komsomol shock projects -- the Dzhezkazgan Mining and Metallurgical Combine, the Omsk Synthetic Rubber Plant, etc. There are a large number of other sectors of Communist constructions where a warm greeting and a joyous reception await the former military agitators.

Persons who are transferred to the reserve and have difficulty in determining the region to which they will go will be helped to make that choice by the commanders, political agencies, and Party and Komsomol organizations. It is important only that each of them take into consideration the tremendous national importance of the shock projects situated in the east of the country.

The national economy will be able to use any speciality that a serviceman has acquired in the army: aviation mechanic, tractor operator, driver, radio operator, electrician, etc. "But what if I don't have a specialty?" certain servicemen might now ask. There is no reason for them to be alarmed. Our country has a wide network of special educational institutions, mechanization schools, and various courses. For example, in Altay Kray alone there are 34 schools for the mechanization of agriculture. The instruction period is one year. Instruction and meals are free. The students receive a stipend.

In this regard it is necessary to emphasize the great importance of the work done by the Party and Komsomol organizations to assure each serviceman transferred to the reserves that he will receive the conditions and advantages granted to persons who volunteer to work at enterprises and projects in remote regions, and on sovkhozes and kolkhozes in the virgin and neglected lands.

It would be desirable for each Komsomol organization to establish contact with the sovnarkhozes, oblast executive committees, enterprises, and new construction projects to which former military agitators will be going after their service in the army.

Another thing that may be of great importance here is meetings between servicemen and representatives of the new construction projects, sovnarkhozes, and ministries, and with advanced production workers, as well as lectures, reports, and discussions concerning the development of the regions to which the persons in the reserves will be going, and widespread popularization of examples of the unselfish labor of former servicemen.

Many of our Komsomol organizations have already begun this work. They are explaining the decisions of the IV Session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and propagandizing the successes of the Soviet nation in Communist construction. The young people in the formation where Captain Vystavkin is the Komsomol worker maintain a close link with the groups at a number of enterprises, with former servicemen who are now working in rural and urban areas.

Traveling on a Komsomol trip ticket to the projects in the North, Siberia, the East, and the virgin lands is a high honor for a member of the VLKSM and a high responsibility for the organization that recommends that action. Each candidate must be carefully discussed at a Komsomol meeting and the trip ticket to the production area must be presented in a solemn ceremony.

May the servicemen released from the ranks of the Soviet Army gladden the Party and their Motherland by their unselfish labor, and may each of them make a worthy contribution to the cause of the successful fulfillment of the Seven-Year Plan! There are no fortresses that cannot be taken by winged youth!

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